

Theme Paragraph for “The Most Dangerous Game”

The theme of “The Most Dangerous Game” is that war should awaken sympathy for every living creature. To begin, the antagonist, Zaroff, does not value human life because of his experience in war. Zaroff assumes Rainsford will support the hunting of man because of Rainsford’s similar experience. When Rainsford says that the hunting of men is murder, Zaroff responds by saying, “I refuse to believe that so modern and civilized a young man as you seem to be harbors romantic ideas about the value of human life. Surely your experience in the war--” (Connell 14). This quote shows that the antagonist believes the war showed that all men are worthless. Second, the theme of the value of human life is supported when Rainsford remembers what it is like to be stalked and hunted. While he is digging the tiger trap to catch Zaroff, he remembers when he “had dug himself in in France and a second's delay meant death.” Rainsford then understands the similarity between the feeling he had in the war and what his prey feels like when he hunts. Only by living through the hunt on Ship Wreck Island does Rainsford begin to feel the fear he so happily put into the animals he hunts.